

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 AID-05 /098 W

-----161507Z 111171 /40

P R 151159Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4763

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 426

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, RW

SUBJECT: DEMARCH ON ZAIRE

REF: (A) STATE 066446, (B) KIGALI 383 (NOTAL)

1. HAVING BEEN UNABLE TO REACH FONMIN PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE WITH PRES. HABYARIMANA ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO PARIS, I MADE BELATED PRESENTATION ON ZAIRE PER REF (A) TO SECGEN AND ACTING FONMIN RENZAHU APRIL 14. ALTHOUGH SUBJECT MATTER SOMEWHAT OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, I STRESSED OUR VIEW THAT AFRICANS THEMSELVES SHOULD VOICE CONCERN AT VIOLATION OF ZAIRE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SHOULD GIVE EVERY POSSIBLE SUPPORT TO MEDIATION EFFORTS SUCH AS NIGERIA'S.

2. RENZAHU REPLIED THAT RWANDA REMAINED VERY CONCERNED AT SITUATION IN SHABA, NOTING THAT HABYARIMANA HAD SENT PUBLIC MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO MOBUTU (REF B). HE SAID HABYARIMANA HAD ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION TO PRES
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GISCARD FOR FRENCH MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE, ON HIS ARRIVAL IN PARIS APR 13. HE ADDED THAT IF RWANDA HAD HAD MEANS TO DO SO, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO SEND ITS OWN TROOPS TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE ZAIRE'S IN REPELLING AGGRESSORS.

3. SECGEN PRAISED OTHERS WHO HAD RALLIED TO AID ZAIRE MATERIALLY, INCLUDING BELGIANS, MOROCCANS, AND U.S. (HE WAS

AWARE OF OUR MOST RECENT C-130 SHIPMENT AND APPLAUDED IT). WHATEVER OTHERS MIGHT SAY, RWANDA DID NOT CONSIDER SUCH HELP "INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" BUT RATHER AID TO FRIENDS UNDER ATTACK. MOREOVER, IT WAS APPARENT TO GOR THAT INVADERS ENJOYED SUBSTANTIAL OUTSIDE SUPPORT. RENZAHO EVEN EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT INVADERS WERE REALLY KATANGAN GENDARMES; AFTER ALL, IT HAD BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE KATANGANS HAD FOUGHT IN ZAIRE, MANY MUST BE "OVER THE HILL," AND SURELY ARMS WITH WHICH THEY LEFT ZAIRE WERE NO LONGER SERVICEABLE (INDEED, CAPTURED ARMS WERE FOUND TO BE FROM "OTHER SOURCES). IN ADDITION, THERE WAS EVIDENTLY OUTSIDE AGITATION OCCURRING ELSEWHERE IN ZAIRE, AIMED AT FOSTERING DISCONTENT AND EVENTUALLY TOPPLING MOBUTU. BUT THEN, PRESIDENT FONMIN HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED CONCERN TO ME ABOUT SOVIET/CUBAN MACHINATIONS.

4. RENZAHO WAS DISTICNTLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT. IT TOOK TWO TO NEGOTIATE, HE OBSERVED, AND ANGOLANS FLATLY DENIED ANY ROLE AND THEREFORE ANY REASON TO SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE WITH MOBUTU. AND THERE SEEMED NO WAY AT ALL TO INVOLVE INVADERS THEMSELVES IN NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANY CASE, CONCLUDED RENZAHO, ZAIRE AND ITS FRIENDS SHOULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH INVADERS, IT SHOULD DRIVE THEM OUT. CRIGLER

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